

Remarks

Claims 57-65 remain in the present application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 1-56 were previously canceled.

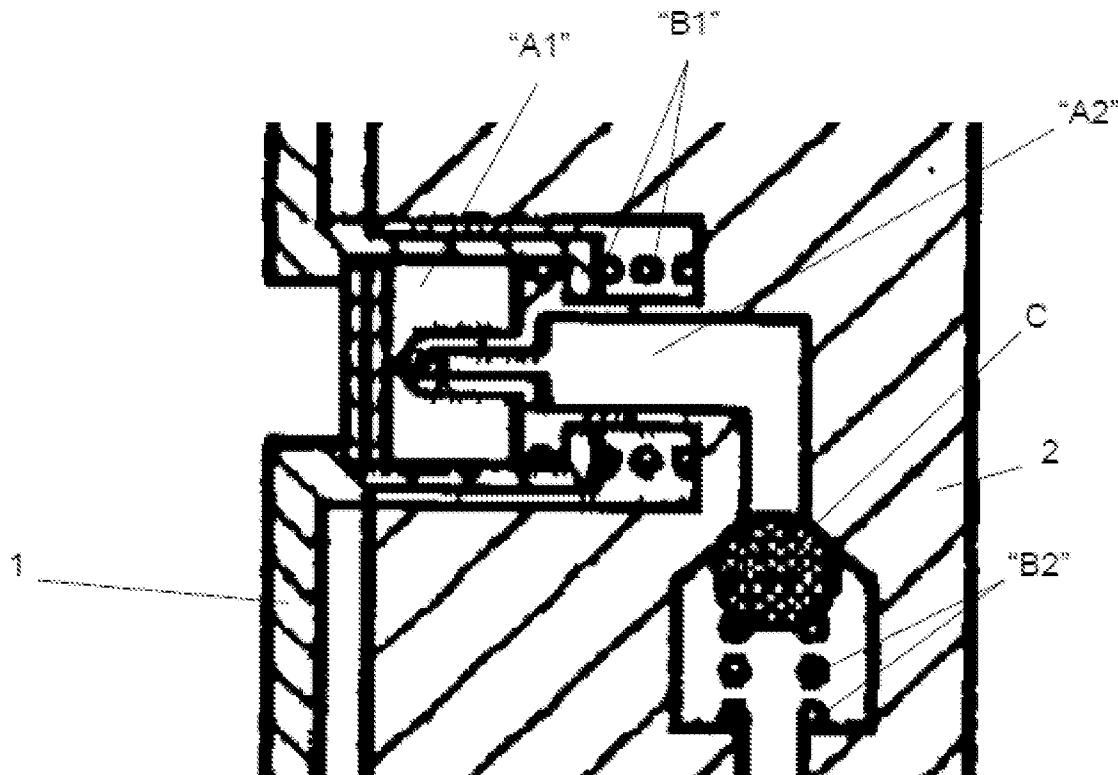
Claims 57-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2006/0172171 to Deinzer in view of US 3,795,558 to Dabney *et al.* Claims 60-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deinzer in view of Dabney *et al.* and further in view of US 6,021,930 to de Pous *et al.* Claims 62-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deinzer in view of Dabney *et al.* and further in view of US 5,244,615 to Hobbs.

Claim 57 is the only independent in this group of claims and is rejected as being obvious over a combination of Deinzer and Dabney. The Examiner specifically refers to Figure 7 of Deinzer to show a valve of Figures 10a and 10b, an outer casing (2) with a first opening and an inner liner (1) with a second opening through which the flow of fuel would pass the valve. The valve would be attached to the outer casing. The Examiner admits that Deinzer does not disclose that the valve be attached to outer casing by heat as claimed in claim 57 or by ultrasonic welding as claimed in some of the dependent claims. However, the Examiner alleges that secondary reference Dabney teaches the use of ultrasonic energy to seal two plastic parts and that it is "within the grasp of a person having ordinary skill to pursue as a means for attaching the valve to the outer casing to provide a secure and hermetic attachment..." (See Office Action at 4).

Applicants respectfully traverse this obviousness rejection on the ground that Deinzer explicitly teaches away from permanently attaching, *i.e.*, "secure and hermetic attachment", the valve to the outer casing as alleged by the Examiner, *inter alia*.

A relevant portion of Figure 7 is enlarged, annotated and reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience. First, Applicants do not believe that the valve shown in Figures 10a and 10b in Deinzer is the valve illustrated in Figure 7 due to the lack of similarities between the valves. Assuming for the present purpose that the valve in Figure 7 is located at "A1", this valve "A1" is secured to inner liner 1 and is opened by a needle-like device "A2". However, there is no permanent connection between this valve "A1" and outer casing 2, because as shown, valve "A1" does not come into contact with outer casing 2, and therefore cannot be attached to the

outer casing by any means. Importantly, Figure 7 discloses two springs at "B1" and "B2." Spring "B2" is a part of a valve and is designed to urge the ball "C" into a sealing position. Spring "B1" is designed to resist the insertion of inner liner 1 into outer casing 2 and to assist in the ejection of inner liner 1 away from outer casing 2. This spring "B1" is similar to springs 2c shown in Figures 1(ii) and 1(iii) of Deinzer. Springs 2c or "B1" teach away from attaching the valve to the outer casing by heat or any other permanent methods.



For these reasons, one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine Deinzer and Dabney, and independent claim 57 is patentable over this combination.

Claims 58-65 all depend upon allowable independent claim 57 and add further limitations thereto, and therefore are patentable at least for that reason alone. Applicants reserve the right to further support the patentability of these dependent claims as well as independent claim 57, should that become necessary.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested. All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Applicants believe that no fees or extensions of time are due in connection with the submission of this Response other than the fees for a RCE and 1-month extension of time. However, if any required fee is due, the Commissioner may charge appropriate fees to The H.T. Than Law Group, Deposit Account No. 50-1980, and if any extension of time is required, it is hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4 June 2010

/H.T. Than/

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